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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SECTION

THE OLIVEIRA LIMA COLLECTION OF
HISPANOAMERICANA

To great book and manuscript collections in the United States, in which material on Hispanic America forms a preponderating or important part—namely, the Library of Congress and the Library of the Pan American Union in Washington, the Library of the Hispanic Society of America in New York, the Berkeley Collection of the University of California, the Ayer Collection in the Newberry Library in Chicago, the collections in the Harvard, Texas, Northwestern, and Notre Dame Universities, and the Clement Collection in Michigan—is to be added another most valuable collection, that of the Brazilian scholar, historian, and diplomatist, Senhor Manoel de Oliveira Lima. Negotiations first instituted actively by the distinguished scholar himself in 1916 have now been consummated, and this magnificent collection, the fruit of many years of patient, intelligent selection, is, as this is being written, probably on its way to Washington, where it will be installed in the Catholic University of America as a free gift from its collector.

Through the courtesy of the Rector of the Catholic University of America, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, D.D., himself a wellknown authority on Church History, and of Rev. Dr. Peter Guilday, of the historical faculty of the University, and secretary of the *Catholic Historical Review*, it is possible to add to the meager notice of this gift published recently in this REVIEW, some of the most important details of the negotiations. On October 2, 1916, Dr. Oliveira Lima, writing from Rio de Janeiro to Bishop Shahan, recalled to the latter's attention his formerly-expressed desire (in 1912) of presenting his library to the American Catholic University of America. Although still comparatively young (49 in 1916), Oliveira Lima had already retired from the diplomatic service, and was living quietly in London and in Brazil. The European War with its disheartening attendant circumstances, had, however, made life in Europe less attractive than formerly, and Dr. Oliveira Lima, not only wished to have his collection safely housed in Washington, but also desired to spend the remainder of his life in that city.

The proposal made to the University was to the effect that not only the collection of books and manuscripts be transported to Washington, but also his collection of bronzes, paintings, furniture, and other materials. The bulk of the library (about 16,000 volumes), Dr. Oliveria Lima proposed to bestow immediately upon the Catholic University of America, accompanying his offer with but two conditions:

1. That it [the collection] will always be kept in a separate room or place under the name of Collection or Library Oliveira Lima.
2. That I shall be its keeper or librarian during my life.

Seldom, if ever, has an offer been more simply made. The eminent scholar and diplomatist states in his letter that he wished to keep near his books for the pleasure of it, and that it is his intention to add continually to the collection. A later letter (Pernambuco, January 15, 1917) says:

My library will grow larger every day, as you will see. Even during these few months here, I have already gathered a few more cases of books to add to it. Most of them have been given to me, but some have been purchased, as I cannot help buying books.

From which it appears that Dr. Oliveira Lima has been smitten by that incurable disease so well described by Merimée in his "Bibliophile".

But the extent of the gift of Dr. Oliveira and his wife (for the latter is also sharer in this unique donation) does not end with the collection of books. At their death, they intend to bequeath to the University their art collection for the decoration of the rooms in which the books shall have been housed. Further the Doctor says:

Our idea is also to endow by our will the University with a Chair of Portuguese language and literature.

Speaking of the reason for making the endowment, he says that the donation

meets an old wish of ours, who are both Roman Catholics, and anxious not only to see our faith prosper in America, but to see the Catholic University of Washington raised to an international center of learning in the New World.

Of his own future, the Brazilian scholar says:

My intention is to live close to the University, as I mean to be, as I have told you, the librarian of the library I am giving away to the University. Its reading room is to be my workroom, as it is to be a separate collection, and in that way I shall, I am sure, be useful to the University which, I believe, has a great field of

action in its future relations with South America, owing to the community of religious faith. As you may perhaps know, our Church has gained in this country [Brazil] much more vitally since its separation from the State.

Referring to a letter from the Rector of the University, Dr. Oliveira Lima says further on this subject:

I am delighted to see that you so well understand my thought of a Catholic coöperation between our countries, or rather our continents. My idea is to make of my library, increasing as it will go on all the time, a bond of American union; and I dream of starting a Review, a purely intellectual one, for scholars, part in English, part in Spanish, and part in Portuguese, to promote a better knowledge. Your dream of a South American Institute will become a reality sooner than you may expect I dare say.

To this generous offer there was but one answer that could be made. The Trustees of the University, as expressed by the Rector in a letter.

accepted with much gratitude your generous and noble proposition.

and in the name of the University expressed

our undying gratitude for your generous proposition, and our great admiration for the truly Catholic and broad spirit in which you have conceived this unique foundation. There can be no doubt that you have laid solidly the cornerstone of a great foundation, whose results, morally and spiritually, as well as intellectually and economically, will continue to grow through many ages.

Responding in like manner to the spirit in which Dr. Oliveira Lima's offer is made, the University plans to house the Collection in strict accordance with its donor's wishes. Consequently, it is good to know that generous donations to the University have made possible the building of a magnificent library in the near future. In a section of this, the Oliveira Lima Collection will be housed. Meanwhile, until these new quarters are ready, the Collection will find room in one of the buildings of the University, and Dr. Oliveira Lima and his wife will occupy a suite of rooms in the same edifice adjacent to the Collection they cherish so highly. In the new Library Building, it is also the intention of the Trustees of the University to provide space for graduate study in History, Politics, Language and Literature, and other subjects. Thus all the Romance languages, for instance, will be brought together.

This slight description would be even more fragmentary without some mention of the contents of the Collection itself. It is considered the finest collection of Hispanoamericana owned by a Brazilian,

and has few, if any, equals in Hispanic America. Besides material of a general and classic nature, it contains many exceedingly scarce Spanish and Portuguese works, some of which, indeed, are said to be unique. Here, for instance, is found a copy of the first book printed in Rio de Janeiro, one of two known copies. One of the choicest treasures is the 1507 Montalbordo, in which is found the first printed description of Brazil. Another is the first description of the Maranhão, of which no copy is found in the Public Library of Rio de Janeiro. Other books of value for the study of Brazil are Spix and Martin's *Natural History of Brazil* (the copy formerly owned by Prince Metternich); a complete set of Olcide d'Orbigny's scientific work on, and travels in, South America (14 vols.) of which only two complete sets are said to exist in the United States (one at Harvard University and one at Peabody Museum); complete sets of the Portuguese liberal reviews and periodicals issued in London during the first quarter of the nineteenth century; and a number of valuable Dutch pamphlets on Brazil of the first half of the seventeenth century. Two-thirds of the Collection relate to Hispanic America. But the collection makes a broader appeal than to students alone of Hispanic America. Here is found a copy of Garcia da Orta's treatise on the drugs, fruits, etc., of India (Goa, 1565), of which but seven copies are known; a copy of the first book printed at Macao (1580) which relates to the Japanese embassy sent to the Holy See; a vellum manuscript prayerbook (richly illuminated) formerly in the possession of Mariana, Queen of Portugal; and a collection of books and pamphlets on the Jesuits, which were published in all parts of Europe in the eighteenth century. Quite recently, Dr. Oliveira Lima purchased at Pernambuco some scarce and valuable Dutch tracts of the seventeenth century on Brazil from the splendid library of the late Alfredo de Carvalho. There are also many manuscripts, valuable autographs, medals, prints, and pieces of music.

Among the art objects are many bronzes, one of which is a bust (natural size) of the first emperor of Brazil, made in 1823. Among paintings are an original by Franz Port, the Dutch artist who accompanied Prince Mauritz van Nassau Siegen to Brazil in the seventeenth century; the only ten water colors by Requeña, a member of the Spanish commission for the boundary settlement of the eighteenth century; views of the Upper Amazon; and many canvasses by the best Brazilian artists.

This magnificent Collection has been housed partly in London (this portion having been examined by Professor Percy Alvin Martin, of

Leland Stanford Jr. University, who had the good fortune to be a guest at Dr. Oliveira Lima's house for some weeks), partly in Brussels (about 5,000 volumes), and partly in Brazil. The prolongation of the war prevented the removal of the portion in Brussels, but the volumes were packed and stored in the headquarters of the Brazilian legation. Uncertainty of sea transportation prevented the removal of the London portion. But now since all obstacles have been removed by the course of events, the project is fast nearing realization, and it is hoped that the near future will see the collection safely installed in its future home, and open for investigation and research.

The importance of this donation can scarcely be overestimated. It adds one more link to the chain binding the two Americas, and its illustrious donor will exercise a very potent influence in binding closer the lands of the western hemisphere. Scholars will rejoice in the possession in this country of materials so necessary for historical research; and the Catholic University of America is destined to become a place of pilgrimage from many directions.

Dr. Oliveira Lima, still in his early fifties, has resigned from the diplomatic service and proposes to devote the rest of his life to study and writing, having in mind various historical projects. He is well remembered in Washington, where he was Secretary of the Brazilian legation from 1896 to 1900. His last diplomatic post was that of Brazilian minister to Belgium. He has an international reputation and speaks with authority on Brazilian history and literature. In the period, October, 1915 to February, 1916, he was at Harvard University, where he inaugurated the new Chair of the History and Economics of Brazil. He was also a delegate to the Pan American Scientific Congress held at Washington. Among his books are the following:

Aspectos de literatura colonial brasileira. Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus, 1896. Pp. xvi, 301.

La Evolución histórica de la América Latina; bosquejo comparativo; traducción castellano de A. C. Rivas. Madrid, Editorial-América, [191-]. Pp. 280.

The Evolution of Brazil compared with that of Spanish and Anglo-Saxon America; . . . ed., with introduction and notes by Percy Alvin Martin, Stanford University, California. The University, 1914. Pp. 159. Six lectures delivered at Leland Stanford Jr. University in 1912.

Formation historique de la nationalité brésilienne; serie de conferences faites en Sorbonne, avec une préface de M. E. Martinenche et un avant-propos de M. José Vêrissimo. Paris, Garnier Frères, [1911]. Pp. xxiii, 249.

Historia diplomática de Brazil, o reconhecimento do imperio. 2d ed. Rio de Janeiro, etc., H. Garnier, 1902. Pp. viii, 376.

- La Langue portugais. La littérature brésilienne. Conférences faites les 18 et 25 janvier 1909 à l'Université de Louvain. Anvers, Mission Brésilienne d'Expansion Économique, 1909. Pp. 52.
- Nos Estados Unidos, impressoes politicas e soeias. Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus, 1899. Pp. 524.
- Pan-Americanismo (Monroe-Bolivar-Roosevelt). Rio de Janeiro, etc., H. Garnier, 1907. Pp. 342.
- The Relations of Brazil with the United States. New York City, American Association for International Conciliation, 1913. Pp. 14.
- Sur l'évolution d'une ville du Nouveau-monde. Publication faite par la Mission Brésilienne de Propagande et d'Expansion Économique d'Anvers. Anvers, Impr. C. Thibault, 1909.

On April 22, 1914, on the occasion of his leaving Brussels, a brilliant function of farewell was tendered him in that city, which was international in character. The addresses and remarks made on that occasion were embodied in a book, which was published under the auspices of those present. This volume bears the title *Oliveira Lima* (Editeur Anc. Maison, Bruxelles, 1914. A note in the book states, "The addresses delivered on that occasion and reproduced in full in the present brochure, testify as to the complete cordiality that reigned at that sympathetic assembly, in the course of which the Belgian and Brazilian friends of M. de Oliveira Lima tendered their touching adieux to the distinguished diplomat, who had succeeded in gaining so many warm friendships and leaves behind him so many excellent memories."

Even more than the Catholic University of America this country is to be congratulated because of this unusual gift and the fact that Dr. Oliveira Lima has decided to take up his residence here.

JAMES ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.